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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method for sending voicemail messages to multiple recipients for instantaneous playback, comprising the steps of:

receiving an input that selects the multiple recipients from a stored list of users (310);

sending phone numbers of the multiple recipients to a temporary voicemail

10   server, in response to said receiving step (315);

receiving a voicemail message (320, 325);

determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers, by the temporary voicemail server (335); and

sending IP packets that include the voicemail message to any of the

15   multiple recipients that have an active mobile terminal (345), wherein the input and the voicemail message received at said receiving steps are provided by an originating sender of the voicemail message.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting the voicemail message from the temporary voicemail server after all of the multiple

20   recipients have received the voicemail message (365).

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of copying the voicemail message to a voicemail mailbox of any of the multiple recipients that do not have the active mobile terminal (355).

4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of deleting the

25   message from the temporary voicemail server after all of the multiple recipients have received the voicemail message or have had the voicemail message copied to the voicemail mailbox (365).

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the IP packets further include a notification message that notifies a receiving recipient that a mobile terminal of

30   the receiving recipient has received the voicemail message (345).

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP packets further include a notification message that notifies a receiving recipient of an identity of the originating sender of the voicemail message (345).

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored list of users is comprised in an address book stored on a mobile terminal of the originating sender (310).

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of playing back the voicemail message on a mobile terminal of a given one of the multiple recipients, upon receiving an input corresponding to the given one of the multiple recipients actuating a single button (360).

9. A system for sending voicemail messages to multiple recipients for instantaneous playback, comprising:

an originating mobile terminal for receiving an input corresponding to a selection of the multiple recipients from a stored list of users, for determining phone numbers of the multiple recipients from the selection, and for receiving a voicemail message (230); and

a temporary voicemail server for receiving the phone numbers of the multiple recipients, for determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers, for temporarily storing the voicemail message, and for sending IP packets that include the voicemail message to any of the multiple recipients that have an active mobile terminal (295).

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said temporary voicemail server deletes the voicemail message after all of the multiple recipients have received the voicemail message (295).

11. The system of claim 9, further comprising a voicemail mailbox for storing the voicemail message for any of the multiple recipients that do not have the active mobile terminal (290).

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said temporary voicemail server deletes the voicemail message after all of the multiple recipients have received the voicemail message or have had the voicemail message stored to the voicemail mailbox (295).

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the IP packets further include a notification message that notifies a receiving recipient that a mobile terminal of the receiving recipient has received the voicemail message.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the IP packets further include a notification message that notifies a receiving recipient of an identity of the originating sender of the voicemail message.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the originating mobile terminal comprises an address book that includes the stored list of users (230).

16. The system of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of recipient mobile terminals, each of the plurality of recipient mobile terminals corresponding to one of the multiple recipients and having a single button for playing back the voicemail message (240).

17. A method for playing back a voicemail message sent to multiple recipients, comprising the steps of:

receiving an input that selects the multiple recipients from a stored list of users (310);

sending phone numbers of the multiple recipients to a temporary voicemail server, in response to said receiving step (315);

receiving a voicemail message (320, 325);

determining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the multiple recipients from the phone numbers, by the temporary voicemail server (335);

sending IP packets that include the voicemail message to any of the multiple recipients that have an active mobile terminal (345), wherein the input and the voicemail message received at said receiving steps are provided by an originating sender of the voicemail message; and

playing back the voicemail message on a mobile terminal of a given one of the multiple recipients, upon a single button being actuated on the mobile terminal of the given one of the multiple recipients (360).

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of deleting the voicemail message from the temporary voicemail server after all of the multiple recipients have received the voicemail message (365).

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19.   The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of copying the voicemail message to a voicemail mailbox of any of the multiple recipients that do not have the active mobile terminal (355).

20.   The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of deleting the message from the temporary voicemail server after all of the multiple recipients have received the voicemail message or have had the voicemail message copied to the voicemail mailbox (365).